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In Grateful Memory
of
FIFTY YEARS OF THE MANIFOLD
GRACE OF GOD

1909 - 1959

Celebration June 28, 1959

Prepared for the Celebration of the
50th Anniversary of the

MENNONITE BROTHERS CHURCH
Sawyer, North Dakota

Printed in U. S. A.



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Introduction

This booklet has been prepared as an expression of gratitude for the grace and blessing of God, extended to the Sawyer Mennonite Brethren Church. In it is briefly related the history of its founding, subsequent growth, and highlights of its activities during the past fifty years. It was written for the 50th Anniversary Festival, June 28, 1959. It gives evidence of the faithfulness and mercy of God, and points to Jesus Christ as the builder, and at the same time, the cornerstone of the Church.

We express our hearty thanks to our Committee, Rev. Gust Faul, William Bechtold, and David Beck and to all those who have contributed to the writing of this booklet for their diligent efforts in making this booklet meaningful. May it stimulate its readers to praise God and challenge all of us to greater devotedness to Him.



FIRST CHURCH - 1910

EARLY HISTORY 1909 - 1936

For lack of early church records, it is necessary to rely on information provided by the descendants of charter members as passed on to them by their elders.

At the turn of the century, the area south of Sawyer was quite unsettled. The first settlers arrived in the year 1898. They did not come as a group movement, but more or less in family units. They came from different parts of the Old World such as Russia, Germany, Rumania, Austria, and other countries. Because of their varied backgrounds, they also differed in their religious views, but they had a common faith in God, and relied on Him for help and guidance. They were all poor in material goods, living in primitive homes. During the long hard winters, their low sod houses were occasionally covered with snow.

These early believers fellowshipped together on Sundays. Meetings were held in different homes, depending on an invitation from one of the group from Sunday to Sunday. At this early stage, the group was composed of people of various denominational background. The Baptist group exerted the greatest influence, and occasionally a Baptist minister from the Anamoose, North Dakota area served them.

It was in the early part of the year 1909 that a minority group decided to separate themselves from this assembly because of lack of discipline, and met separately, although not knowing to which denomination they would turn for guidance.

About the same time a widow, Mrs. Christina Sutter, with a large family moved into the locality to make her home. She came from the Harvey, North Dakota community and was a member of the Harvey Mennonite Brethren Church. Rev. Christian Reimche of the Harvey Church came to look after the welfare of this family and supplied its need from the Harvey M. B. Church. It was on this occasion that the separated minority group met with Rev. Reimche and made an initial contact with the Mennonites. The group was favorably impressed with the stand of the Mennonite Brethren Conference because it did not permit loose living nor the use of tobacco.

At a later date, this group of believers decided to write Rev. Reimche and invite him to come and serve them on a certain Sunday. By providence, Rev. Reimche wrote a letter to the group, offering his services for the same Sunday they had chosen, so the two letters reached their destinations at the same time. They accepted this to be the leading of the Lord, to whose guidance they were very sensitive.

On June 13, 1909, this nucleus, consisting of nine people, went to Harvey to be accepted into the M. B. Church. They were the following: Brother and Sister George Beck, Brother and Sister Christian Vix, Sr., Brother John Faul, Sr., Brother and Sister Philip Bechtold, Brother Anton Fix, and Sister Anna Marie Faul. Christian Vix is the only charter member now living. He resides at the Home for the Aged at Reedley, California.



SECOND CHURCH
Five and one-half miles south of Sawyer
CENTRAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE - 1941

This new church became known as the Velva M. B. Church. Rev. Reimche served the church with the Word regularly once a month and on special occasions.

The Lord blessed the work from the very beginning so that the attendance grew steadily and the need for additional room made itself known that same year. Up until this time, they were still meeting in private homes which soon became too small.

The members were enthusiastic in the work, so that the idea of building a church edifice gained rapid momentum. This required needed funds, location, and a building plan which were all speedily supplied.

A real estate man, by the name of David Leer, who had just acquired a large tract of land, now offered two acres on a choice corner eight miles south of Sawyer to the church free of charge. This land was located at the center of the community at that time. When the brethren gathered to stake off and claim the plot, no one of their number knew how to measure or undertake such a project, but the good Lord knew their need and provided the answer for it. At the very spot where the brethren had gathered, a surveying crew for a telephone company was at work. The surveyor of the telephone company graciously offered his services. How the brethren praised the Lord for this manifestation of His leading!

Most of the construction work of the church edifice was carried on during the winter months of 1909 and 1910 so that about the middle of June, 1910, it was finished and dedicated to the Lord. This event attracted the interest of the people of the community. This writer can well remember the large turn out of people on the day of dedication. This was the era when the horseless carriages first made their appearance, but only the business men owned them at this early stage. It was an exciting sight to see these brass-covered vehicles make their way over the winding trails to this first church of the Sawyer community.

The cost of the building was \$1350 which in that day was considered to be a great deal of money. The following year the brethren sowed eighty acres of crop land cooperatively and the proceeds were enough to pay in full the remainder of all incumbrance.

The Central District Conference of the M. B. Churches showed much good will towards the new congregation so that frequent visits by evangelists were made; in connection with which much time was spent in Bible study, singspirations, and house visitations. The Church grew steadily. In 1921 Rev. J. J. Wiebe preached the gospel nightly for five weeks. As a result, forty-eight souls were added to the Church through baptism in June of the same year.

The Church experienced some severe tests, but the Lord was faithful to His promise.

In the year 1924 the Church relocated to a more suitable location five miles south of Sawyer. This new location was more centralized as to the membership and community. Rev. Christian Reimche continued to minister to the Church while the Church was under the supervision of the Harvey M. B.



SECOND CHURCH WITH ADDITIONS

Church. Brethren from the local congregation served as leaders and ministered the Word in the absence of Brother Reimche. The brethren, George Beck, John Bick and Fredrich Schueler, served for lengthy periods of time.

In 1929 the Church was pleased to ordain one of its own young men, Brother Gust Faul, to serve as minister of the gospel. He had been trained at Tabor College and Northwestern Bible School. In the following year Rev. Reimche withdrew from the public ministry because of advanced age, at which time the Church became autonomous. This, however, did not change the pattern of administration.

LATE HISTORY 1936 - 1959

In June, 1936, the Church, together with a conference committee, met for reorganization. Till then the Church was known as the Velva Mennonite Brethren Church; the name was now changed to the Sawyer Mennonite Brethren Church. Brother E. C. Vix was elected as leader and Brother Wm. Bechtold as assistant. The brethren: Reinhold Liebelt and Christian Vix, Jr., were chosen as deacons, and Gust Faul and Nicoli Siemens served as ministers of the gospel. All officers were elected for one year.

The following year some changes were made in that Brethren Reinhold Liebelt and Brother Albert Beck were elected to serve as deacons for an indefinite time. At this time it was agreed that the moderator was to be elected annually.

In 1938, the brethren saw a need for improvement in the church building. A full basement was constructed and the following year choir space was added, and a modern heating system was installed. This was done by volunteer labor. During this time, the general feeling became evident that some one should be called to devote his full time to the spiritual need of the Church. The brethren of the Home Mission Committee of the Conference were helpful and concerned that a suitable worker be found. The call went to Brother and Sister D. J. Gerbrandt of Hillsboro, Kansas. They accepted the challenge and by July 1 assumed their responsibilities. This couple gave themselves whole-heartedly to this work, working sacrificially, particularly with the young people, and that with good results. After two years, they decided to spend a year in San Jose, California. After this they responded to the second call to continue their work at the Sawyer Church.

In 1940 the Church had the joy of gathering in a harvest of souls under the preaching of the evangelist, Ed. Erickson. Thirty-seven accepted Christ as their Saviour and were added to the Church by baptism. In 1941 the Church experienced a special blessing in that it had the privilege, for the first time, to entertain the Central District Conference.

At the annual business meeting of 1942 the moderator recommended to the Church that our workers, Brethren D. J. Gerbrandt and Gust Faul, be charged with the leadership responsibility of the Church, since their qualifications and abilities suited them for such work. This was also in harmony with the practice of the other churches of our Conference. This was in keeping with the desire of the Church.

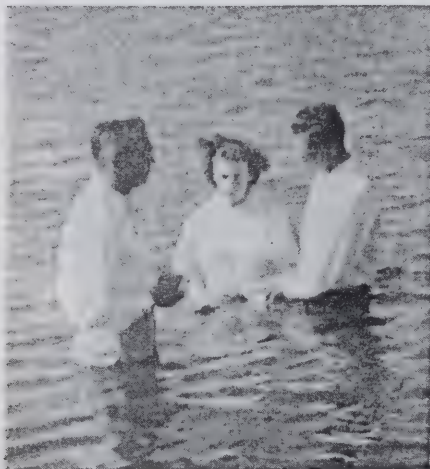
The Church then elected Brother D. J. Gerbrandt as minister and pastor and Brother Gust Faul as his assistant. This arrangement lasted for two years until the Gerbrandts decided to go more fully into mission work for which they had previously dedicated their lives. For this cause they left the work here to continue their study at Tabor College. Their decision automatically placed the responsibility of leadership upon Brother and Sister Gust Faul.

The Church by now agreed that a full time worker was needed. This time a call was extended to Rev. J. F. Thiessen of Lustre, Montana, an experienced brother of our conference and an efficient man in leadership. His fatherly approach to all church problems has added much to the upbuilding of the spiritual house. Mrs. Thiessen worked with the sisters; her enthusiasm always inspired her co-workers. After four years they retired from active work.

Brother Ben Zerbe, who was on the faculty of the Northern Bible Institute, Minot, North Dakota, served the Church for one year. He and his wife too were candidates for the mission field. They left for their place of service in Japan where they are still active.

In June of 1950 it was again the privilege of the Church to entertain the Central District Conference. At this occasion the brethren of the Church made the acquaintance of a young man, Frank Wiens of Minneapolis, Minnesota. To him the Church extended a call to come and serve as pastor.

Brother Wiens was a graduate from Northwestern Bible School and was active in the work of the South Side Mission in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Soon after his arrival the Church ordained him as minister of the gospel. At the same time the brethren Reinhold Liebelt and Albert Beck were ordained as deacons. In 1953 Brother Julius Heizelman was elected to the office of deacon, to serve with the other two brethren. Brother Wiens proved himself a diligent worker for the Lord. The attendance steadily increased during his ministry.



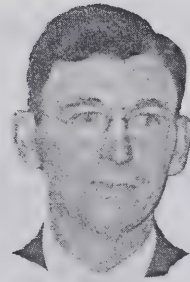
Baptism pictures



ALBERT BECK
Ordained Deacon 1950



REINHOLD LIEBELT
Ordained Deacon 1950



JULIUS HEIZELMAN
Elected Deacon 1953

In 1954 George and Gretchen Faul were ready to be served with ordination by the Church as missionaries to the Belgium Congo, where they are serving at the present time. One of our young men, Leo Buechler, who heeded the call of the Lord to the ministry, is now serving a Presbyterian Church as pastor.

Brethren Leslie Fast and H. E. Wiens served for a short time during the interval between the time when Brother Frank Wiens left and Rev. J. D. Block was called in 1955 to assume the responsibility as pastor of the Church.

In January of 1955 fourteen members of the Sawyer Church formed a part of the nucleus for the organization of the Missionary Mennonite Brethren Church of Minot, North Dakota.

A desire for more adequate facilities became a growing aspiration of various people in the congregation. On April 3, 1956, after a fellowship meeting, the church took up the question of building a new church edifice which would more adequately meet present day needs. The membership had been well informed and asked to pray concerning the matter. The results of the ballots revealed a gratifying unity of mind to build, and that the same should be in the village of Sawyer. More than half of the total cost of the building was subscribed for by individuals on that same evening. A building committee of seven members with Brother Julius Heizelman as chairman was elected. After a period of prayer and a time of waiting, a suitable location became available close to the existing parsonage in Sawyer. Ground was broken on June 17; the basement for the building constructed during July; and the super structure was begun on the first of October of the same year. During the winter months the interior of the building was completed. The first services in the new building were conducted on March 24, 1957. By early July the project was completed. On July 14 the building was dedicated for the Lord's use.

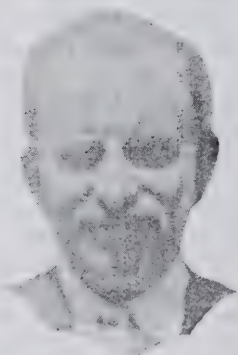
During the last three years it has been the joy of the Church to serve several young couples as well as young people with baptism and receive them into the fellowship of the Church.

In October, 1958, the Church again was host to the District Conference. This time the new facilities were a blessing in accommodating the convention. The fellowship with brethren and sisters from all over the District in the homes and in the Church proved a blessing to the people of the Church. This experience will long linger in the minds of the people.

EARLY CHURCH LEADERS

GEORGE BECK — 1909 - 1918

In 1909 when the Sawyer Mennonite Brethren Church had its beginning, Brother George Beck served as its first leader. He did much to help the Church in building the first house of worship. He received and entertained ministers and evangelists who came to serve the Church. He was called on to serve as a bone setter and veterinarian, and helped people in the community in various ways with their problems. With the guidance of Rev. Christian Reimche, the first minister, he led the Church for eight years.



FRED SCHUELER — 1919 - 1934

Brother Schueler loved the Lord and was ever ready to serve according to ability. He served the Church as leader with all sincerity and humility. He was concerned in leading the people on to be faithful in serving the Lord. He practiced hospitality by opening his heart and home to the servants of the Lord.

EMMANUEL C. VIX — 1934 - 1941

Brother E. C. Vix, having grown up in the Church and having a good knowledge of its operation, was elected as leader of the Church. He was also called on to preach the Word on regular Sunday services. With zeal and enthusiasm he inspired the congregation to build themselves in the faith. He led the Church on to enlarge and improve its facilities.

He served as the last lay leader. The leadership of the Church then passed over to Rev. D. J. Gerbrandt and succeeding pastors.

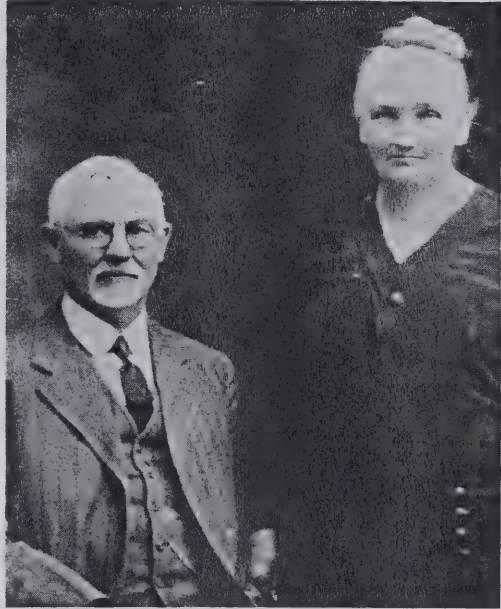


MINISTERS WHO SERVED THE CHURCH

REV. CHRISTIAN REIMCHE — 1909 - 1930

Rev. Christian Reimche was with the Sawyer Church from its beginning as a church. He was first contacted when the group, though unorganized, began to look for denominational affiliation. He was instrumental in organizing the Church and in bringing it into the Mennonite Brethren Conference.

Hereafter he served the Church faithfully, preaching and teaching the Word on one Sunday a month and on special occasions. Though he lived in Harvey and served the Harvey Church, he did the work here also, as a faithful undershepherd of the Lord. During his years of service from 1909 to 1930, many sinners came to a saving knowledge of Christ and followed the Lord in baptism.



REV. GUST FAUL — 1929 - 1938



Rev. Gust Faul grew up with the Church except for the years he spent in Bible school and college. He also served the McClusky Church as pastor in 1950.

He was ordained to the ministry at Sawyer in the fall of 1929, and served faithfully. He knew the Scriptures well, and was always concerned about the lost; was active in personal work. In the early years he did much work with the choir and later with the male chorus.

He proved himself a willing worker, and was called upon to serve several times for a lengthy period whenever the Church was without a full time pastor. His willingness and devotion are appreciated.

REV. DICK J. GERBRANDT — 1938 - 1943

In the late thirties the Church saw the need for a brother who would devote his full time for the spiritual ministry in the Church. Brother D. J. Gerbrandt answered that call. He served the Church with zeal, which won him the commendation of the congregation. His faithful teaching and preaching of the Word resulted in the salvation of souls and the upbuilding of God's children. Bible classes, conducted regularly with the young people, did much to establish them in the faith. His interest in music, vocal and instrumental, promoted that phase of church work. It was during that time that the male chorus was organized.



During the third year of his service, the Church served him with ordination to the ministry of the gospel. He served sacrificially four years during depression years.

REV. JOHN F. THIESSEN — 1945 - 1948



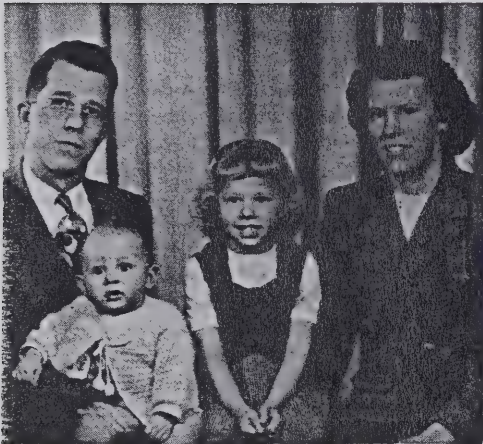
Rev. John F. Thiessen heeded the call from Sawyer to the pastorate of that church. He came here with much experience in the work of the Lord, and served with all sincerity. He preached the deep truths of the Word. He was very diligent in contacts, house visitations, and in feeding the flock. He proved to be a good undershepherd for the Lord. He served as one of the leading brethren in the Central District Conference for a number of years. After three years of faithful service, he resigned in order to retire.

REV. BEN ZERBE — 1949 - 1950

Just out of school, Rev. Ben Zerbe came to us with all the ambition of a young pastor, and with the work of missions close to his heart. They were with us but one year when they got word to prepare to go to the mission work in Japan to which they had previously responded to the Lord's call.



REV. FRANK WIENS — 1950 - 1954



The Church at Sawyer extended a call to Rev. Frank Wiens who accepted it. He came here from Northwestern Bible Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he had received his training for the ministry. He was active in the work of the South Side Mission in that city. The Church was glad to serve him with ordination to the gospel ministry on October 15, 1950.

With zeal he served the congregation, and expounded the Word. Brother Wiens showed much interest in the work of home missions. At different times he and other brethren from the Church drove to South Side

Mission at Minneapolis, Minnesota, Pine Ridge and Porcupine, South Dakota stations to help with construction work.

After nearly four years of service, he heeded the call to Salem, Oregon.

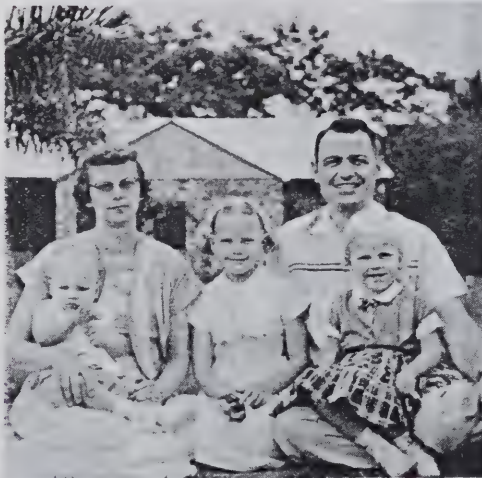
REV. JOHN D. BLOCK — 1955 - 1959

Brother John D. Block came to us from West Covina, California, having received his training at the Pacific Bible Institute and Bible College, Fresno, and California Baptist Theological Seminary.

During his ministry and leading at Sawyer, a new sanctuary was constructed in Sawyer. With great interest he helped till the finish. Through his concern and prayer, young people and families found salvation and were added to the Church. Rev. Block served the congregation faithfully, preached the Word, looked after the spiritual needs of the people and visited the sick. He stressed unity in the Church. His heart was in the work of the conference, in youth work, Sunday School, Missions, and other committee work. With regrets the Church accepted his resignation after four years of service.



MISSIONARIES



From the very beginning this Church has been interested in the work of Foreign Missions. Some of the earliest visiting ministers, Rev. N. N. Hiebert and Rev. Frank Janzen, were brethren under appointment for India by the Mennonite Brethren Board of Foreign Missions.

The Church is thankful that the Lord has called one couple, Brother and Sister George Faul, of its own number to labor in the Belgium Congo. They entered this service in August of 1954. They spent one year in Belgium studying the language; then proceeded to their field of labor. At present they are teach-

ing in the Ecole De Moniteurs Teacher-Training School. By mid-July their first term will be completed and the Church which has borne them up in prayer is awaiting their return. May it please the Lord to choose others from our midst for such a noble service.

CHURCH LEADERS

1. George Beck	1909-1918	7. Gust Faul	1947-1948
2. Fred Scheuler	1918-1934	8. Ben Zerbe	1948-1949
3. E. C. Vix	1934-1941	9. Frank Wiens	1950-1954
4. D. J. Gerbrandt	1942-1943	10. Gust Faul	1954-1955
5. Gust Faul	1944-1945	11. J. D. Block	1955-1959
6. J. F. Thiessen	1946-1948		

Some Brethren That Served As Supply Pastors

Clayton Tempelton	1945	Leslie Fast	1954
Ernest Warkentin	1950	H. E. Wiens	1955

ORDINATIONS

Gust Faul	1929	Minister of the Gospel
D. J. Gerbrandt	1942	Minister of the Gospel
Frank Wiens	1950	Minister of the Gospel
Reinhold Liebelt		Deacon
Albert Beck	1950	Deacon
George Faul	1954	Minister of the Gospel
		Missionary to Belgium Congo

SOME EVANGELISTS THAT SERVED

Frank Janzen	1909	Missionary to India
He was very helpful to the group of believers in giving advice in organizing and planning the first church building.		

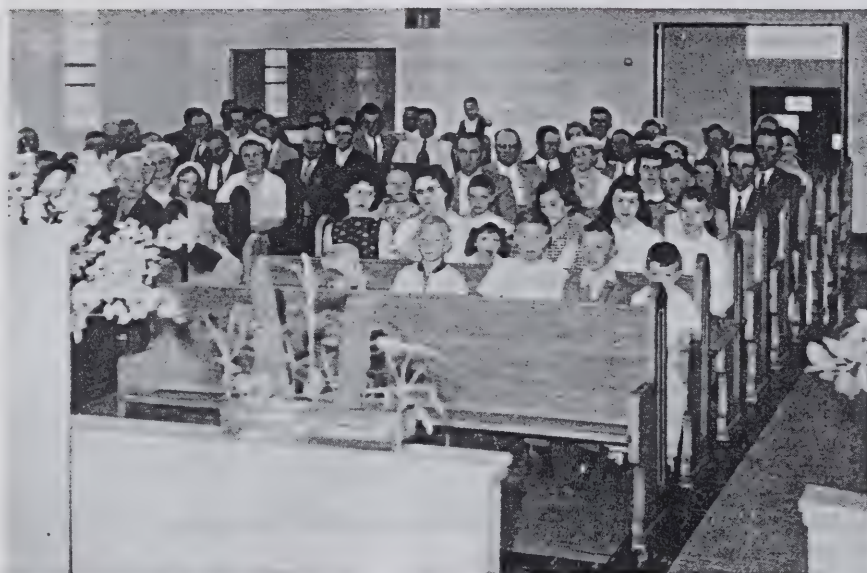
Henry F. Klassen	1910
David Strauss	1912
George Satler	1912
J. J. Wiebe	1921

The Lord sent Bro. Wiebe who came in a humble spirit, preaching the Word of God in power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit who revived the saints and convicted the sinner that many cried to the Lord for mercy. It was a joy to see individuals arise from their knees and shout, "I found Jesus", or "He lives", and others, "Rejoice with me, I'm saved". One brother said in his testimony before baptism, "I was a heavy smoker before conversion and I knew it was wrong. After I was saved I took the tobacco and buried it in the field. Then a voice said to me, 'If you get tempted, you'll dig it up again and use it'. So I dug it up and put it into the stove". As a result 48 souls were baptized.

David Hooge	1923	He subsequently served several times.
John Seimens	1928	
Ed Erickson	1940	
Alvin Ysker	1943	
Orlo Dirks	1945	
Waldo Wiebe	1958	



PRESENT BUILDING - 1957

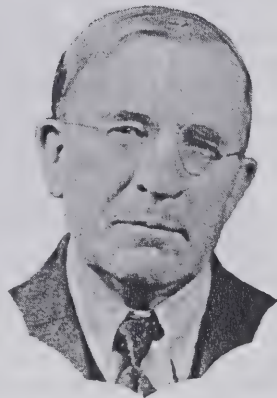


PART OF CONGREGATION - 1959

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school had its beginning some time before the Church was organized. It started in a rather small and humble way. There were but two classes. The adults and the young people formed one class, and the German A. B. C. class constituted the other. The writer well remembers how the teacher was seated and the children, one by one, stood at his knee and recited the A. B. C.'s, while the rest sat without making a move or a whisper, waiting their turn. Sunday school material was a scarce item fifty years ago. How thankful we should be for the good and helpful material we have today!



CHRISTIAN VIX, SR.

Only one of the brethren, Christian Vix, Sr., who was instrumental in starting the Sunday school, is still living. He served as its first teacher.

After the Sunday school had been in progress for a short time, Rev. N. N. Hiebert visited the Church. He asked, "Don't you folks use Adult Quarterlies?" One of the brethren asked, "What are quarterlies?" After an explanation was made, the brethren accepted the suggestion with thankful hearts and acquired the materials. Adult lessons have been in use ever since. Later, a junior department was added in which good useful materials, available through our M. B. Publishing House at Hillsboro, Kansas, have been used.



DAVID BECK

It was in the Sunday school where many, including the writer, learned to read in the German language. This writer is grateful for the Sunday school, for through it his heart and soul have received many a blessing through the clear teaching of the Word. For many years the Sunday school was all in the German language. In due time most of the classes changed to the English language, while a few of the older classes continued in the German. Since then all classes have changed to the English.

The Sunday school has grown from year to year. The present enrollment stands at 118 which is divided into twelve classes; two departments headed by Brother David Beck and Sister Helen Liebelt.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Daily Vacation Bible School is another phase of work the Church has been pursuing diligently. For a number of years several schools were conducted in various school houses with children of the neighborhoods. Now it is held in the Church basement, utilizing Sunday school class rooms. The attendance varies, but is usually larger than the number of children in the Church.

In February, 1914, Bible school was held in the Church for six weeks with Brother Klaus Ewert, teaching about forty pupils. In 1924 Brother Gust Faul taught for four weeks at the school house one mile south of the Church with about twenty pupils attending.



In 1933 Vacation Bible School began to be held regularly with Sisters Emma Reimche and Clara Leopke as its first teachers. Later, Brother Harold Leopke joined them.

Through the years many young people have studied the Bible stories and have learned Scripture verses by memory which they have not forgotten. But most important is the fact that many of the youngsters accepted Christ, and have continued in the Church, working for His cause.

MUSIC

From the very beginning, this Church recognized the value of music as an avenue of expression of adoration to God. In those days all singing was in the German language and without the benefit of printed notes. Because of the limited supply of song books, much of the singing was from memory. The usual practice was for the song leader to read a verse at a time with the congregation repeating it in singing. Since the Church did not have an instrument for an accompaniment, the congregation relied on different individuals within their group to lead out.

Instruction in music was of a very limited nature. It was obtained from visiting evangelists, pastors, and Bible school teachers. Among these prominently mentioned were Rev. Jacob Wiebe, Klaus Ewert, and Rev. J. F. Thiessen.



CHURCH CHOIR - 1959



MALE QUARTET - 1959

Some of the books used by the congregation were the following: Frohe-Botschaft, Zins Lieder, Kleine Palme and Evangeliums Lieder, all in the German language. Following the transition from the German to the English, Tabernacle Hymns and the present M. B. Church Hymnal are being used in congregational singing.

During the transition period both English and German song books were used. Besides the inconvenience of this practice, the music was of a confused nature.

Because singing in the early years of the Church was from memory, the words and music of some of the songs are still firmly implanted in the minds, and linger on the lips of the older people. Some of the songs were "Gott Ist Die Liebe", and "Der Himmel Steht Offen", "Meine Heimat Ist Dort In Der Hoeh", "Was Kan Es Schoeneres Geben". The memory of these songs affords pleasant reminiscence.

The first musical instrument used in this Church was a pump organ, purchased about 1922. This was replaced by a piano in 1941. Solicitation of special donations made possible the addition of a Hammond electric organ in early 1959.

The first mixed choir came into being about 1922, and was directed by Brother Christian Vix, Jr. Others who have served as director since then are: Rev. Gust Faul, Rev. D. J. Gerbrandt, George Faul, Rev. Frank Wiens, and Arthur Liebelt, present director.

A male chorus existed as early as 1930, but it did not become a standing organization until about 1939 at which time it was reactivated by the pastor, Rev. D. J. Gerbrandt. It has since functioned regularly under the direction of the Brethren Arthur Liebelt and Gust Faul.

During the period from 1923-1942 a male quartet served the congregation. Also a ladies' chorus functioned for a period of time under Mrs. Albert Vix, and later under the direction of Miss Evelyn Beck.

After several years of inactivity the ladies' chorus has been reorganized and is being directed by Mrs. Arthur Vix. Another male quartet has recently been organized and is serving, especially on special occasions.

The Church manifested interest in music by participating in "Saenger-fests", sponsored by the M. B. Churches of North Dakota, and in local endeavors.

The Church has provided opportunity for the development of the gift of singing among the young people through participation in the Christian Endeavor Organization, musical groups in the Church, at annual youth camps, and in Vacation Bible Schools.

The ministry of music of the Church is directed by a Music Committee, organized in 1956. It coordinates all the musical groups within the Church, and is responsible for providing music for all services.



LADIES CHORUS - 1959



MALE CHORUS - 1959

CHRISTIAN YOUNG PEOPLES ENDEAVOR

This phase of Christian service in our Church is believed to have begun in 1922. The Christian Young Peoples Endeavor has its meeting every second Sunday evening of the month. For a number of years it has been supporting a native worker in India. These meetings give the opportunity for expression, talent, development, and leadership training in the Church.

MISSION CIRCLE

The Mission Circle was started in 1930, but records are only available from 1943. Sister Helen Faul was the first leader. The purpose was to acquaint the members with the work of missions, to pray for missions, and to contribute towards that work. Each year there has been a Mission Sale of which the proceeds are sent to Foreign Missions, Home Missions and Relief. The total amount received through sales is approximately \$10,848. At the monthly meetings the mission work of our conference is being studied. Different sisters study and report on the work of our various mission fields and stations. These are remembered in prayer. An offering is taken at each meeting which has resulted in approximately \$854. These totals do not include the first thirteen years.

There are twenty-two members at the present time. Some of the other work that has been done is the sending of Christmas bundles, through MCC, to needy children, remembering our boys in government service with gifts at Christmas, serving meals for special occasions, and remembering the sick with flowers.

BAPTISMS

CHARTER MEMBERS ..	9	1938	2
1909	3	1939	1
1914	4	1940	37
1915	2	1944	6
1917	6	1945	2
1918	8	1946	2
1921	48	1947	3
1922	1	1948	1
1923	1	1949	2
1924	8	1950	8
1925	6	1951	2
1926	2	1952	10
1927	6	1954	2
1928	2	1955	3
1929	13	1956	1
1930	2	1957	10
1934	5	1958	3
1937	9	1959	4
		TOTAL	234

All Previous and Present Members Of The Church

CHARTER MEMBERS

Christian Vix, Sr.
Christina Vix
George Beck
Rosie Beck
Philip Bechtold
Caroline Bechtold
Anna Maria Faul
John Faul
Anton Fix

1909

John Beuchler
Maria Beuchler
Christina Sutter

1914

Fred Scheuler
Louise Scheuler
John Bick
Sophie Bick

1915

Fred Heizelman
Kathrine Heizelman

1917

Gust Schimke
Louise Schimke
Fred Huber
Katie Huber
William Faul
Margaret Faul

1918

George Beuchler
Louise Beuchler
Adam Schopp
Christina Schopp
Godleib Beck
Caroline Beck
Christian Bauman

1921

Emil Bick
Freda Bick
John Beuchler
Jacob Beuchler

William Bechtold
Magdalena Bechtold
August Faul
Walter Faul
Fred Faul
John F. Faul
Bertha Faul
Jordan Fix
Frank Fix
Jacob Fix
Phoebe Fix
Jacob Steffan
Mary Steffan
Herbert Schmidt
Christina Schmidt
Andrew Berkley
Katie Berkley
Fred Beuchler
Hanna Beuchler
Henry Beuchler
Mike Beuchler
Henry Sutter
Magdalena Sutter
Lizzie Sutter
Jacob Sutter
Christina Vix
John R. Faul
Louise Faul
Lizzie Vix
E. C. Vix
Martha Vix
Albert Vix
Bertha Vix
Gust Faul
Paul Schlecht
Louise Schlecht
Julius Heizelman
Louise Heizelman
William Heizelman
Adam Bauman
Dorothy Huber
George Knorr
Caroline Knorr
Christ Vix, Jr.
Emelia Vix

1922

Harry Faul

1923

Louise Heizelman
Katie Schlecht

1924

Edward Beck
Lydia Beck
David Beck
Sam Trieweser
Reinhold Liebelt
Paulina Liebelt
Lydia Heizelman
Fredricka Bastian

1925

John Bolender
Carolina Bolender
Karolina Bolender
John Schmier
Louise Schmier
Lydia Beuchler

1926

Katie Heizelman
Bertha Beuchler

1927

Edward Schopp
Lizzie Schopp
C. P. Bechtold
Freida Bechtold
Sarah Bauman
Helen Faul

1928

Albert Beck
Martha Beck

1929

Jacob Huber
Paulina Huber
Edward Renfend
Freida Renfend
Lydia Rudomski
Alvinia Huber
Annetta Liebelt
Emma Berkly
Hilda Bick
Alvina Schimke
Ben Steffan
John Heizelman
Louise Heizelman

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1930
William Dietrich
Anna Dietrich

1934
Rev. Nick Siemens
Lena Siemens
Ella Berg
Ruth Fisher
Emelia Berg

1937
Artvin Faul
Katie Scheuler
Freida Gundert
Hilda Heizelman
Viola Beck
Gladys Beck
Alma Beck
Evelyn Beck
Irene Beck

1938
Rev. D. J. Gerbrandt
Linda Gerbrandt

1939
Ruby Heizelman

1940
Edwin Auck
Helen Auck
Wesley Auck
Margorie Auck
George Auck
Paulina Schlecht
Alvina Schlecht
Marie Schlecht
George Faul
Allen Faul
Esther Faul
Florence Vix
Ruth Vix
Beadu Vix
Elsie Beuchler
Henry Beuchler
Agnes Beuchler
Leo Beuchler
Elmer Bechtold
Martha Bechtold
Hylde Bechtold
Katie Beck
Lloyd Schimke

Bennie Beuchler
George Beck
Larry Schimke
Luella Beck
Verla Heizelman
Bernice Heizelman
Alma Knorr
Lando Vix
Elmer Bauman
Rueben Bauman
Melvin Heizelman
Erna Batke
Ruben Beuchler
Rosie Schimke

1944
Herbert Heizelman
Elvira Heizelman
Irene Heizelman
Harley Beck
Artis Heizelman
Adeline Beck

1945
Rev. John F. Thiessen
Mrs. Thiessen

1946
Samuel Lang
Linda Liebelt

1947
Verna Kleinsausser
Arthur Liebelt
Donald Faul

1948
Ben Steffan
Gladys Steffan

1949
Rev. Ben Zerbe
Esther Zerbe

1950
Rev. Ernest Warkentin
Mariann Vix
Verona Heizelman
Ruth Beck
Rev. Frank Wiens
Margorie Wiens

1951
Carl Schieve
Edna Schieve

1952
Jacob Scheuler
William Scheuler
Esther Scheuler
Wida Heizelman
Mariann Beuchler
Jenell Schafer
Deloris Beck
Wesley Vix
Marvin Heizelman
Archie Faul
Josephine Faul
Doris Beck

1955
Virgil Reiswig
Rev. John D. Block
Kathryn Block

1956
Mavis Vix

1957
Grace Beck
Lois Heizelman
Lorene Beck
Norbert Liebelt
Helen Liebelt
Curtis Faul
Eddie Faul
Paul Block
Albert Beck, Jr.
James Block

1958
Amy Beuchler
Ardell Faul
Doris Louise Beck

1959
Arthur Vix
Emma Vix
Carol Heizelman
Lois Jean Heizelman

WORD OF APPRECIATION

The Committee in charge of producing this booklet wishes to express its appreciation to all who have contributed toward the production of it.

Albert Beck
George Beck
John D. Block
Mrs. Artvin C. Faul
Mrs. Marvin Heizelman
Emmanuel Vix
Wesley Vix

Conclusion

At the conclusion of this booklet we want to praise the Lord for His manifold grace which has been operative in this Church for the first fifty years of its life. We praise Him for His watch, care, mercy, and innumerable blessings which He has showered upon us.

The Lord has rewarded faithful labors of those who served Him here so devotedly in by gone days. Many spiritual battles have been fought and victories won. He, who said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," has proven Himself faithful and has given grace for His people to stand firm in the faith.

With full confidence we look into the future knowing that He who has kept the fathers will also keep their descendants. May this Church ever be a lighthouse in this community to the glory of God.

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.
Amen.



West Public Library
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SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:00 a.m.

Mr. David Beck - Superintendent
Mrs. Norbert Liebelt - Junior Department Superintendent
Miss Lois Heizelman - Organist

WORSHIP SERVICE - 10:50 a.m.

DOXOLOGY Congregation, led by Bro. Wesley Vix

ACCOMPANIMENT Miss Ruth Beck at the Organ
Miss Josephine Faul at the Piano

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMNS "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
"Hallelujah What A Saviour"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING For Unified Budget

MUSIC - "He Reigns" Choir, directed by Bro. Arthur Liebelt

PRAYER AND PRAISE SERVICE Pastor

MUSIC - "To God Be The Glory" Choir

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE Rev. D. J. Gerbrandt

HYMN - "Now Thank We All Our God" Congregation

BENEDICTION

Afternoon 2:00 p.m.
ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

SONG SERVICE Bro. Virgil Reiswig - Organist, Mrs. Arthur Vix

INVOCATION . Rev. John F. Froese, Chairman Central District Conference

WORDS OF WELCOME Pastor

MUSIC - "Praise Ye The King" Choir

ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE Rev. D. J. Gerbrandt

MUSIC Ladies Chorus, directed by Mrs. Arthur Vix

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH ... Rev. Gust Faul, Bro. Albert Beck

BRIEF STATISTICAL REPORT Bro. William Bechtold

MUSIC - "The Gates of Praise" Male Chorus, directed by Rev. Gust Faul

TESTIMONIES Brethren E. C. Vix and Julius Heizelman

OFFERING Missions

CLOSING PRAYER Bro. Reinhold Liebelt

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